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FEMA

Recovery News

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LONG-TERM RECOVERY COMMITTEES ASSIST WITH UNMET NEEDS

PASADENA, Calif. — Californians who suffered damages and losses as a result of the wildfires, and still have disaster-related unmet needs, may find help through long-term recovery committees.

Under the guidance of the Southern California Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters, long-term recovery committees are being formed in San Bernardino and San Diego Counties. These committees provide services, based on need, through their voluntary member organizations to help affected families access the resources needed for their recovery.

The long-term recovery committees are made up of faith-based, community-based, and voluntary agencies. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) personnel from the voluntary agency liaison group, in partnership with the individual assistance staff from the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES), also help with the coordination and keep voluntary organizations up to date with any changes in federal policy.

"The need for these long-term recovery committees is crucial to the welfare of those who have lost so much," said Federal Coordinating Officer Mike Hall of FEMA. "The voluntary agencies involved continue to provide help long after the emergency phase has passed."

"Local, state and federal agencies are doing all we can to help those affected recover as quickly as possible, but we can't do it alone," said Henry Renteria, director of OES and state coordinating officer for the fire recovery effort. "Volunteer agencies have played and continue to play a vital role. We are committed to continuing to work with them to help those affected by the fires recover as quickly as possible."

Additional long-term recovery committees will be developed in the counties of San Diego and San Bernardino.

FEMA coordinates the federal government's role in preparing for, preventing, mitigating the effects of, responding to, and recovering from all domestic disasters, whether natural or man-made, including acts of terror.

The California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) coordinates overall state-agency response to major disasters in support of local government. OES is also responsible for maintaining the State Emergency Plan and coordinating the California's preparedness, mitigation and recovery efforts.

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Disaster recovery assistance is available without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, disability, English proficiency or economic status. If you or someone you know has been discriminated against, you should call FEMA toll-free at 1-800-621-FEMA (3362). For TTY call 1-800-462-7585.

Temporary housing assistance from FEMA does not require that an applicant file for an SBA loan. However, an applicant must complete an SBA loan application to be eligible for additional assistance under the part of the Other Needs Assistance (ONA) program that covers personal property, vehicle repair or replacement, and moving and storage expenses. There are other ONA grants such as public transportation expenses, medical and dental expenses, and funeral and burial expenses that do not require individuals to apply for an SBA loan to be eligible. FEMA will process applications for housing assistance regardless of whether the applicant has applied for an SBA loan, and eligibility determinations for applicants requesting FEMA's temporary housing assistance will not be held up because the applicant has or has not filled out an SBA application.

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